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10/658,929	09/09/2003	Kevin Lym	SONY-26100	3117

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EXAMINER
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MENDOZA, JUNIOR O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2423

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/658,929	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LYM, KEVIN	
	<b>Examiner</b> JUNIOR O. MENDOZA	<b>Art Unit</b> 2423	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 12, 22, 31, 41 and 45 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1, 5, 6 – 13, 16 – 23, 26 – 30, 41, 43 – 45, 47 – 50 and 52 – 54** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang (Pub No US 2004/0098379) in view of Robbin et al. (Pub No US 2003/0167318). Hereinafter referenced as Huang and Robbin, respectively.

Regarding **claim 1**, Huang discloses an apparatus for automatically routing digital information (Paragraph [0016]), comprising:

an interface coupled to receive downloaded digital information having a type (Paragraph [0018]);

a storage device coupled to the interface to store the digital information (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3);

a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically sort and distribute the digital information based on the type to one or more locations(Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on figures 3 and 4).

It is noted that Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas an unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

Regarding **claim 5**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 1; moreover, Huang discloses that the digital information comprises media content including music, videos, and data (Paragraph [0016]).

Regarding **claim 6**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 1; moreover, Huang disclose that the controller utilizes a routing table to route the digital information (Paragraph [0021] also exhibited on fig 3).

Regarding **claim 7**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 6; moreover, Huang disclose that the routing table further comprises a file type column and a location column (Paragraph [0021] also exhibited on fig 3, the location, i.e. folder, of each data type depends and corresponds to the data type).

However, Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field on endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas a theoretical unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

Regarding **claim 8**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 6; moreover, Huang disclose that the routing table utilizes meta data information within the digital information to route the digital information (Paragraphs [0016] [0020] and [0021] also exhibited on fig 3).

Regarding **claim 9**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 6; moreover, Huang disclose that the routing table is user-defined (Paragraphs [0025] and [0026]).

Regarding **claim 10**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 1; however, it is noted that Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the controller automatically detects one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses that the controller automatically detects one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0031] figure 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of allowing the external device to be able to work on any computer that supports it without the need to manually install any software which would allow it to work; moreover, this characteristic allows the device to be hot swappable.

Regarding **claim 11**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 1; however, it is noted that Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the secondary devices include one or more of an mp3 player, a video recorder, and a handheld.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses that the secondary devices include one or more of an mp3 player, a video recorder, and a handheld (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of supporting different types of content to be processed by the same device, which would motivate the user to buy a device capable

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of multitasking, sorting and distributing different types of data implementing the same device.

Regarding **claim 12**, Huang discloses an apparatus for automatically routing digital information from a computing device to one or more locations (Paragraph [0016]), comprising:

an interface coupled to receive downloaded digital information having a type (Paragraph [0018]);

storage device coupled to the interface to store the digital information (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3);

a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically determine which type of digital information is routed to which location (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on figures 3 and 4);

a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically distribute the digital information to the one or more locations based on the type (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3).

However, it is noted that Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices; a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically detect the one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2);

a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically detect the one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0031] figure 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas a theoretical unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

Regarding **claims 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21**, Huang and Robbin disclose all the limitations of claims 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21; therefore, claims 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11, respectively.

Regarding **claim 22**, Huang discloses an apparatus for automatically routing digital media content from a computing device to one or more locations (Paragraph [0016]), comprising:

an interface coupled to receive downloaded digital media content having a type (Paragraph [0018]);

a storage device coupled to the interface to store the digital media content (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3);



a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically determine which type of media content is routed to which location utilizing a routing table (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3);

a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically distribute the digital media content to the one or more locations based on the type (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on figures 3 and 4).

However, Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices; and a controller to automatically detect the one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2); and a controller to automatically detect the one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0031] figure 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas a theoretical unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

Regarding **claims 23, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30**, Huang and Robbin disclose all the limitations of claims 23, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30; therefore, claims 23, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 2, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11, respectively.

Regarding **claim 41**, Huang discloses a method for routing digital information from a computing device to one or more locations (Paragraph [0016]), comprising:

- receiving the digital information having a type (Paragraph [0018]);
- automatically sorting the digital information based on the type (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3);
- and automatically distributing the digital information to a corresponding one or more of the locations based on the type (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] fig 3).

However, Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations to which content is distributed are one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations to which content is distributed are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas a theoretical unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

Regarding **claim 43**, Huang and Robbin disclose all the limitations of claim 43; therefore, claim 43 is rejected for the same reasons stated in claim 10.

Regarding **claim 44**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 41; however, it is noted that Huang fails to explicitly disclose storing the digital information in the computing device until the corresponding one or more of the secondary devices is coupled to the computing device.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses storing the digital information in the computing device until the corresponding one or more of the secondary devices is coupled to the computing device (Paragraph [0033] fig 4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of automatically updating and transferring the new content, which allows the device to self update every time it gets connected to a computer, saving a lot of time to the user.

Regarding **claim 45**, Huang discloses a method for routing digital information from a computing device to one or more locations (Paragraph [0016]), comprising:

receiving the digital information having a type (Paragraph [0018]);

automatically sorting the digital information based on the type (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3);

automatically distributing the digital information to a corresponding one or more of the locations based on the type (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] fig 3).

However, Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices; and a controller to automatically detect the one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2); and a controller to automatically detect the one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0031] figure 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas a theoretical unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

Regarding **claims 47, 48, 49 and 50**, Huang and Robbin disclose all the limitations of claims 47, 48, 49 and 50; therefore, claims 47, 48, 49 and 50 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claim 44.

Regarding **claim 52**, Huang discloses an apparatus for automatically routing digital information comprising media content of different media types including music, video and data (Paragraph [0016]), the apparatus comprising

a. an interface coupled to receive downloaded digital information having a media type (Paragraph [0018]);

b. a storage device coupled to the interface to store the digital information (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3);

and c. a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically sort and distribute the digital information based on the media type to one or more locations (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on figures 3 and 4).

However, Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field on endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas a theoretical unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

Regarding **claim 53**, Huang discloses a method for routing digital information comprising media content of different media types including music, video and data, from a computing device to one or more locations (Paragraph [0016]), comprising:

a. receiving the digital information having a media type (Paragraph [0018]);

b. automatically sorting the digital information based on the media type  
(Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on figures 3 and 4);

and c. automatically distributing the digital information to a corresponding one or more of the locations based on the media type (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on figures 3 and 4).

However, Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas a theoretical unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

Regarding **claim 54**, Huang discloses an apparatus for automatically routing digital media content of different media types including music, video and data, in a computing device to one or more locations (Paragraph [0016]), comprising:

a. an interface coupled to receive downloaded digital media content having a media type (Paragraph [0018]);

b. a storage device coupled to the interface to store the digital media content (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3);

c. a controller coupled to the storage device to automatically determine which media type of media content is routed to which location utilizing a routing table, the routing table comprising a media type column and a location (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on figures 3 and 4);

distribute the digital media content to the one or more locations based on the media type (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on fig 3).

However, Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices; and a controller to automatically detect the one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2);

and a controller to automatically detect the one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0031] figure 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas a theoretical unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

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4. **Claims 3, 4, 14, 15, 24 and 25** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of Robbin further in view of Mercer et al (Patent No US 7,043,477). Hereinafter referenced as Mercer.

Regarding **claim 3**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 1; however, it is noted that Huang and Robbin fail to explicitly disclose that the storage device is a hard disk drive.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Mercer discloses that the storage device is a hard disk drive (A computer includes a hard disk drive [154] for storage, column 17 lines 48-64 also exhibited on figure 10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang and Robbin by specifically providing such element, as taught by Mercer, for the purpose of providing non-volatile storage that will store content.

Regarding **claim 4**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 1; however, it is noted that Huang and Robbin fail to explicitly disclose that the storage device is a semiconductor memory.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Mercer discloses that the storage device is a semiconductor memory (A computer includes a system memory [134] which consist of ROM [138] and RAM [140], column 17 lines 34-47 figure 10).



Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang and Robbin by specifically providing such element, as taught by Mercer, for the purpose of providing volatile storage that will momentarily store or buffer data in order to allow a computer system to process information efficiently.

Regarding **claims 14 and 15**, Huang, Robbin and Mercer disclose all the limitations of claims 14 and 15; therefore, claims 14 and 15 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 3 and 4, respectively.

Regarding **claims 25 and 25**, Huang, Robbin and Mercer disclose all the limitations of claims 24 and 25; therefore, claims 24 and 25 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 3 and 4, respectively.

5. **Claims 2, 31 – 34, 37, 40, 42, 46 and 51** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of Robbin further in view of Malek et al (Patent No US 6,253,207). Hereinafter referenced as Malek.

Regarding **claim 2**, Huang and Robbin disclose the apparatus as claimed in claim 1; however, it is noted that Huang and Robbin fail to explicitly disclose that the digital information is downloaded from a server to the storage device.

In a similar field of endeavor Malek discloses that the digital information is downloaded from a server to the storage device (Server [120] may be embodied as a file server, a music server or a video server, column 4 lines 46-51 also exhibited on figures 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang and Robbin by specifically providing such element, as taught by Malek, for the purpose of providing an external source of information which has the potential to provide enormous amounts of data which can be requested by the user at any time.

Regarding **claim 31**, Huang discloses a network of devices for automatically routing digital information (Paragraph [0016]), comprising:

a computing device for obtaining and routing the digital information (Paragraphs [0016] [0018] [0021] also exhibited on figures 3 and 4);

one or more locations for receiving the digital information from the computing device (Paragraphs [0016] [0021] also exhibited on figures 3 and 4).

However, Huang fails to explicitly disclose that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices.

Nevertheless, in a similar field on endeavor Robbin discloses that the one or more locations are one or more secondary devices (Paragraph [0026] figures 1 and 2);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang by specifically providing such element, as

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taught by Robbin, for the purpose of saving space on the main computer that receives the content, since it contains a limited amount of memory, whereas a theoretical unlimited amount of external storage devices can be connected at different times.

However, the combination of Huang and Robbin still fail to explicitly disclose a computing device coupled to the server, the server including digital information.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Malek discloses a computing device coupled to the server, the server including digital information (Server [120] may be embodied as a file server, a music server or a video server, where the multimedia traffic handler [400] routes data; column 4 lines 46-51 also exhibited on figures 1, 3 and 4).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang and Robbin by specifically providing such element, as taught by Malek, for the purpose of providing an external source of information which has the capabilities of transmitting vast amounts of data to different users.

Regarding **claims 32, 33, 34 and 40**, Huang and Robbin disclose all the limitations of claims 32, 33, 34 and 40; therefore, claims 32, 33, 34 and 40 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 5, 1, 10 and 11, respectively.

Regarding **claim 37**, Huang, Robbin and Malek disclose the network of devices as claimed in claim 31; moreover, Huang discloses that the computing device is a personal computer (Paragraphs [0016] [0029]).

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Regarding **claims 42 and 46**, Huang and Robbin disclose all the limitations of claims 42 and 46; therefore, claims 42 and 46 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claim 2.

Regarding **claim 51**, Huang and Robbin disclose all the limitations of claim 51; therefore, claim 51 is rejected for the same reasons stated in claim 44.

6. **Claims 35, 36, 38 and 39** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of Robbin further in view of Malek and further in view of Mercer.

Regarding **claims 35 and 36**, Huang, Robbin and Mercer disclose all the limitations of claims 35 and 36; therefore, claims 35 and 36 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 3 and 4, respectively.

Regarding **claim 38**, Huang, Robbin and Malek disclose the network of devices as claimed in claim 31; however, it is noted that Huang, Robbin and Malek fail to explicitly disclose that the computing device is a set-top box.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Mercer discloses that the computing device is a set-top box (Computer [130] can also be a set top box, column 19 lines 10-28 also exhibited on figure 10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang, Robbin and Malek by specifically providing such element, as taught by Mercer, for the purpose of providing more advertisement flexibility from a sales point of view, in other words, using a set top box as a data sorter would allow more marketability due to the additional functions that such device could be able to process.

Regarding **claim 39**, Huang, Robbin and Malek disclose the network of devices as claimed in claim 31; however, it is noted that Huang, Robbin and Malek fail to explicitly disclose that the computer device further comprises a modem device for coupling to the server.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Mercer discloses that the computer device further comprises a modem device for coupling to the server (Computer [130] includes a modem [178] for establishing communication over a network, column 18 lines 40-55 also exhibited on figure 10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Huang, Robbin and Malek by specifically providing such element, as taught by Mercer, for the purpose of providing a way to communicate to different remote server over long distances at reasonable speeds, which allows a user to transmit and receive data as needed.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUNIOR O. MENDOZA whose telephone number is (571)270-3573. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on (571)272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Junior O Mendoza  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2423

/J. O. M./  
January 28, 2009

/Andrew Y Koenig/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2423